



# STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD  
GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS  
LT. GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY  
STEVEN F. LUKAN, DIRECTOR

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Contact:  
Dale Woolery (515) 725-0310

## **Cleaning Out Medicine Cabinets Could Save Iowa Lives**

DES MOINES – Drug Policy Coordinator Steve Lukan, echoing the advice of health and law enforcement officials, urges Iowans to participate in one of many prescription drug Take Back events Saturday, April 26, to safely dispose of old or unwanted medicines, including controlled prescription drugs with a potential for abuse.

“At a time when many Iowans are engaged in spring cleaning, now is also a good time to clean out the family medicine cabinet to prevent drug abuse and protect our environment,” said Lukan. “Since prescription drug abuse is Iowa’s fastest growing form of substance abuse, and most misused medicines reportedly come from friends and family members, Saturday’s Take Back event is an opportunity to make a difference, and perhaps save a life.”

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is sponsored twice each year by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, in cooperation with participating local law enforcement agencies, pharmacies and community organizations.

“During the previous seven Take Back events, since the successful initiative began over three years ago, Iowans have safely disposed of 17 tons of unused medicines,” said Lukan. “More than 120 sites, the most ever in Iowa, are gearing up to host Saturday’s Take Back events in communities across Iowa, accepting prescription medicines with no questions asked.”

To find the Iowa Take Back drop-off site nearest you, or to get more information on how to prevent or get help for prescription drug abuse, go to <http://www.IowaMedicineTLC.org>.

Most Iowa sites collecting unused medicines will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Iowa Department of Public Safety will accept prescription drug drop-offs at its Des Moines headquarters near the Capitol, 215 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

